



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
Meeting Action Report

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Committee: Intergovernmental Affairs

Members: Mayor John Cook (Chair)  
City Representative Emma Acosta  
City Representative Beto O'Rourke  
City Representative Carl Robinson

Date of Meeting: September 17, 2009  
(The meeting commenced at 1:07 p.m. and was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.)

Others Present: State Representative Joseph Moody  
State Representative Marisa Marquez  
Deputy City Manager Patricia Aauto  
Deputy City Manager Jane Shang  
C.I.P. Administrator Theresa Quezada  
Oscar Padilla, El Paso Chamber of Commerce

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**I. Teleconference with the Federal Lobbyists, John Montgomery & John O'Donnell of Murray, Montgomery & O'Donnell to discuss Status of Transportation Reauthorization Act and how the proposed legislation may affect the City of El Paso transportation and mobility programs.**

Via teleconference from D.C., John Montgomery, John O'Donnell and Kyriakos Pagonis provided information about the Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009 introduced by US House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman James Oberstar. Top priorities within the bill were identified as: 1) Transit, 2) Metropolitan Mobility, 3) Projects of National Significance and 4) High Priority Projects.

The discussion focused mainly on transit programs and funding identified within the proposed bill and how it would affect the Bus Rapid Transit System being implemented by the City of El Paso. The Bus Rapid Transit project has been submitted to the Office of Congressman Silvestre Reyes for consideration as a High Priority Project for inclusion in the new reauthorization bill. The request was for \$40 million to help with all four corridors.

The Lobbyists answered questions from the Legislative Review Committee members.

**Action Taken:**

No action required as this item served as an update.

**II. Discussion and action regarding the procedure and timeline to engage state and federal lobbyists and proposed scope of work for each.**

**Summary:**

Staff presented the current status of both state and federal lobbying contracts. Provided for review by the Committee were copies of the scope of services in the City contracts as well as copies of the Requests for Qualifications used by El Paso County to hire their lobbyists. The agreement between the El Paso Water Utilities and their state lobbyist was also included in the packet for reference.

State Representatives Marisa Marquez and Joseph Moody were present to give their opinion on the role of a lobbyist at the state-level and the benefit of having a lobbyist both during session and the interim. They strongly encouraged the City consider engaging a lobbyist year-round so that the important work done during the interim can be addressed

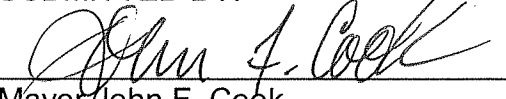
**Action Taken:**

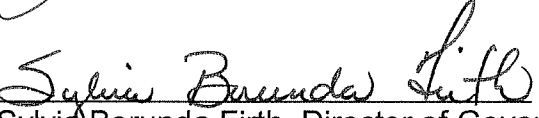
The LRC voted 3-1 for staff to revise the scope of services for the state and federal lobbyist contracts, with the inclusion of the amendment made by Chairman Cook to hold monthly teleconferences with the lobbyists during session and quarterly teleconferences in the interim, and to bring the contract back to Council for review, followed by the issuance of a Request for Proposal to hire a both lobbyists. The RFP should include options for the applicants to bid for both state and federal work, as well as individually and also to allow bids for session only work on the State level.

**Disposition:**

Staff will update scope of services and will bring back to City Council for consideration.

SUBMITTED BY:

  
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Mayor John F. Cook  
Chair, Intergovernmental Affairs LRC

  
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Sylvia Borunda Firth, Director of Government Affairs  
Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor